

## **Rep. Mike Honda Supports The 2012 U.S. Peace Index**

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Violence costs our country, states, and cities hundreds of billions of dollars and millions of jobs every year. Each year, states that experience the highest levels of violence lose millions of dollars to incarceration, homicide, violent crime, policing, and gun control. Our most peaceful states, on the contrary, enjoy some of the highest rates of health coverage, high school graduation, educational opportunity, access to basic services, as well as among the lowest rates of teen pregnancy, income inequality, poverty, and infant mortality.

As policy makers, educators, parents and grandparents, we must understand the connections between levels of violence and peacefulness and the socioeconomic realities they create. Now more than ever, it is critical to harness these connections to enhance the health, peace, prosperity and opportunity for every American by investing in critical and cost-effective social services and reducing wasteful spending on reactionary violence and crime policies.

The 2012 United States Peace Index (USPI) provides us with the analytical tools to take these steps. The report includes an analysis of the socio-economic costs of violence in the United States, while highlighting the economic benefits associated with increasing levels of peace. In so doing, the Report sheds much-needed light on yet-unrealized savings, worth hundreds of billions of dollars for our economy and millions of jobs for our youth.